



State of Utah

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Department of  
Environmental Quality

Alan Matheson  
*Executive Director*

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY  
Bryce C. Bird  
*Director*

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DAQP-122-17

November 17, 2017

Monica Morales, Air Program Director  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

Re: PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exceptional Event Documentation  
Smithfield Monitoring Station  
Western Wildfire Smoke on August 6 and 7, 2017

Dear Ms. Morales,

This letter transmits the documentation necessary to flag data for removal from regulatory consideration for PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedances that occurred on August 6 and 7, 2017, at the Smithfield monitoring station. The documentation report was prepared in accordance with EPA's regulation, "Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events."

Utah is a down-winder state that often receives mixed wildfire smoke plumes from western and northwestern states. Wildfire smoke from western wildfires began to migrate into Utah around July 31, 2017. Smoke plumes intensified in northern Utah by August 4, 2017. A weak upper atmospheric trough caused smoke transport to Utah from California, Oregon, and Idaho to intensify on August 5, 2017. The trough further weakened creating a stabilizing effect on the upper air mass that resulted in increased plume stagnation leading to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedances.

DAQ held a 30-day comment period for the documentation report from October 1 to November 1, 2017. DAQ received one comment concurring on the causation relationship between the wildfire smoke and the noted exceedances.

DAQ expects concurrence from EPA in a timely fashion, since this event may adversely impact our ongoing PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP development progress.

If you have any questions on this filing or need any further information, please contact Joel Karmazyn of our staff at [jkarmazyn@utah.gov](mailto:jkarmazyn@utah.gov) or by phone at (801) 536-4423.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryce C. Bird".

Bryce C. Bird  
Director

BCB:JK:jf

Attachment